

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/698,750

Examiner

ABBAS I. ABDULSELAM

Applicant(s)

DEVOS ET AL.

Art Unit

2629

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview Summary.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,8-15,18-20,23-27,33-37,51,52 and 58-60.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Abbas I Abdulselam/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2629

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Dryja on 03/05/10. Applicant amends claims 1, 15, 20, 27, 33-35, 51, 52 and 58, and cancels claims 3-4, 30-31, 38-42, 45-50 and 55-57.

On Claims:

1. (currently amended) A display comprising: a plurality of display modules interlockable to form the display, each display module comprising: at least one user-viewable display element disposed in the display module, each of a plurality of pixels of the display corresponding to at least one of the display elements; at least one connector disposed in the display module to at least one of receive power from and provide power to a first adjacent display module; and, at least one receptor disposed in the display module and receptive to a connector of a second adjacent display module, wherein one of the plurality of display modules is a master display module and other of the plurality of display modules are slave display modules, the master display module communicating display information to each of the slave display modules that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display , and wherein the master

display module determines a configuration of each slave display module relative to other of the plurality of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave display module that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A display comprising: a plurality of display modules interlockable to form the display, each display module comprising: at least one user-viewable display element disposed in the display module, each of a plurality of pixels of the display corresponding to at least one of the display elements; at least one connector disposed in the display module to at least one of receive power from and provide power to a first adjacent display module; at least one receptor disposed in the display module and receptive to a connector of a second adjacent display module; and, a power mechanism to partially self-power the display module, such that remaining power needed by the display module is received from other of the plurality of display modules, wherein one of the plurality of display modules is a master display module and other of the plurality of display modules are slave display modules, the master display module communicating display information to each of the slave display modules that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display , and wherein the master display module determines a configuration of each slave display module relative to other of the plurality

of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave display module that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display.

20. (currently amended) A display comprising: a plurality of display modules interlockable to form the display, each display module having a front, at least one first side, and at least one second side, and comprising: at least one display element viewable from the front of the display module, each of a plurality of pixels of the display corresponding to at least one of the display elements; at least two connectors mounted on the first sides of the display module to at least one of receive power from and provide power to first adjacent display modules; and, at least two receptors mounted on the second sides of the display module and receptive to connectors of second adjacent display modules, wherein one of the plurality of display modules is a master display module and other of the plurality of display modules are slave display modules, the master display module communicating display information to each of the slave display modules that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display, wherein the master display module determines a configuration of each slave display module relative to other of the plurality of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave display module that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display.

27. (currently amended) A display module for a multiple-display module display comprising: a housing having a front, at least two first sides, and at least two second sides;

at least one display element viewable from the front of the housing, each of a plurality of pixels of the display corresponding to at least one of the display elements; at least two connectors mounted on the first sides of the display module to at least receive power from and send power to first adjacent display modules of the display, the display module interlockable with the first adjacent display modules; at least two receptors mounted on the second sides of the display module and receptive to connectors of second adjacent display modules of the display, the display module interlockable with the second adjacent display modules; and, a communication mechanism to at least one of receive display information and send display information, wherein the display module is a master display module to communicate the display information to each of other display modules of the multiple-display module display to be displayed by the other display modules, the other display modules being slave display modules, and wherein the master display module determines a configuration of each slave display module to the other of the plurality of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave display module that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

33. The display module of claim [28] 27, wherein the display information is superimposed over power signals on the at least two connectors.

34. The display module of claim [28] 27, further comprising at least two additional connectors mounted on one of the first sides and the second sides of the display module to at least receive display information to be displayed by the at least one display element.

35. The display module of claim [28] 27, wherein the communication mechanism is one of: a radio frequency (RF) receiver, and an optical receiver.

38.-42. (canceled)

45.-50. (canceled)

51. (currently amended) A system comprising: a display information source to generate display information; and, a plurality of modular, interlocking means for displaying the display information, wherein the display information is distributed among the means and power is distributed among the plurality of modular, interlocking means, wherein one of the plurality of modular, interlocking means is a master means and other of the plurality of modular, interlocking means are slave means, the master means communicating display information to each of the slave means that the display means is to display , and wherein the master means determines a configuration of each slave means relative to other of the plurality of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave means that the at least one display element of the means is to display.

52. (currently amended) A method comprising: receiving display information from a display information source by a designated master display module of a plurality of interlockable display

modules of a display; conveying a portion of the display information to each of other of the plurality of display modules by the designated master display module, the other of the plurality of display modules being slave display modules; displaying [a] the portion of the display information by of display modules; distributing power among the plurality of interlockable display modules of the display, wherein conveying the display information to each of the other of the plurality of display modules by the designated display module comprises determining by the designated display module the portion of the display information to be displayed by each of the other of the plurality of display modules, the other of the plurality of display modules being slave display modules, and wherein the master display module determines a configuration of each display module relative to the other of the plurality of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave display module that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display.

55.-57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) A method: providing a plurality of interlockable display modules, each having at least two connectors mounted on sides thereof to at least receive power from and provide power to adjacent display modules, and at least two receptors mounted on sides thereof that are receptive to connectors of the adjacent display modules; and, connecting the plurality of interlockable display modules together to form a display having a configuration, wherein one of the plurality of display modules is a master display module and other of the plurality of display modules are slave display modules, the master display module to communicate display

information to each slave display module that each slave display module is to display , and wherein the master display module determines a configuration of each slave display module relative to other of the plurality of display modules, to determine the display information to be communicated to the slave display module that the at least one display element of the slave display module is to display.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ABBAS I. ABDULSELAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00A.M. to 5:30 P.M. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amare Mengistu, can be reached on 571-272-7674. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Abbas I Abdulselam/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2629

March 4, 2010

Application/Control Number: 10/698,750
Art Unit: 2629

Page 9